

National Service Impact in New Hampshire

State Commission

Volunteer NH administers five AmeriCorps state programs that help address unmet needs in the areas of education, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship. New Hampshire's AmeriCorps programs are the Granite State Education Corps, AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program, Student Conservation Association, and City Year, with a total of 171 AmeriCorps members. Accomplishments of 2014-15 AmeriCorps members included supporting more than 500 students in education, educating 1,153 individuals in environmental stewardship, and improving the financial knowledge of 1,035 individuals. Volunteer NH hosts the NH Service Alliance, which brings together all national service programs bimonthly to coordinate service projects and trainings. In addition, Volunteer NH provides critical support to volunteer program infrastructure, training, and recognition of volunteers through the Spirit of NH Awards and the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism; and by hosting the Get Connected volunteer match software. Volunteer NH is responsible for assisting the state in times of disaster by mobilizing and managing volunteers and donations, and providing training and support to disaster response programs including Ready Corps, CERT, NHDART, and NH VOAD.

AmeriCorps State

The Student Conservation Association NH Corps addresses unmet needs in the area of environmental stewardship. AmeriCorps members are based out of Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown and engage in projects throughout the state. Members engage elementary students in environmental education programs and then lead interpretive programs and conservation projects in state parks throughout New Hampshire. In 2014-2015, 28 members treated 82 miles of rivers and trails, treated 40 acres of public lands, improved the knowledge of 826 students in the areas of ecology and sustainable practices, and trained 1,153 individuals in environmental stewardship.

City Year New Hampshire members serve in six high needs, public schools in Manchester. In 2015-2016, 50 members implemented the Whole School Whole Child model and provided in-school and after-school tutoring and mentoring to students in grades 3-5 who are at risk to drop out. An additional 20 members are working in two Manchester schools to assist with the implementation of the Junior STEAM Ahead program, in partnership with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). In 2014-2015, 375 students completed a program with focused academic support and 278 students improved academic performance in literacy and/or math.

AmeriCorps National

City Year Manchester AmeriCorps has 70 AmeriCorps members who serve full-time at eight schools, helping more than 3,810 students at greatest risk of dropping out. City Year AmeriCorps members work alongside teachers, using research-based tools to improve students' attendance, behavior, and performance in math and English. The members also lead afterschool programs and school-wide initiatives to improve school culture. Thanks to the members' service, 84 percent of students tutored by City Year New Hampshire AmeriCorps members increased two or more reading levels, and 69 percent improved at a rate faster than expected for their grade level. Additionally, 70 percent of students who were mentored improved from "need for instruction" in social and emotional learning skills to "typical" or "developing strengths" in these areas.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Campus Compact for New Hampshire sponsors a three-state AmeriCorps VISTA grant for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont to increase access to and retention in higher education for low-income individuals. During the last program year, 26 AmeriCorps VISTA members generated \$489,844 in in-kind donated goods and services and monetary grants. Other accomplishments include 289 students received assistance with student loans and college applications, 823 youth earned high school credit in extended learning opportunities, and 2,594 students participated in extended learning activities. In addition, 1,087 students received mentoring and 806 students participated in structured, educational after-school programs, 4,046 disadvantaged youth received services in education, and 3,395 staff and volunteers received training and provided more than 54,900 hours of service.

The Catholic Charities AmeriCorps VISTA Project places AmeriCorps VISTA members in nonprofits across New Hampshire to improve the lives of those living in poverty. VISTA members write grants and conduct fundraising events, marketing, and volunteer recruitment and management in order to build organizational capacity to serve homeless and low-income individuals. In 2015, 29 members raised \$296,632 in cash and \$248,993 in in-kind donations. They also recruited 2,704 community volunteers and managed more than 3,675 volunteers. VISTA members' efforts increased housing and services for the homeless, expand opportunities for immigrants, and provide additional resources such as food, health services and job training to the community. A total of 425 nonprofits and government entities benefitted from increased capacity to serve low-income residents thanks to the VISTA members' service.

AmeriCorps NCCC

In the spring of 2015, an AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps team helped FEMA meet immediate logistical needs at the onset of its response to a winter storm that struck the region earlier that year. Members reconciled federal property items, including bills of lading, shipping documents, inventory lists, and property transfer reports. Additionally, they assisted with inventory control and management from distribution centers, as well as tracking and reporting resource needs. In just a few short days, AmeriCorps NCCC members and FEMA Region I staff were able to transform two empty floors of a building into a fully functional federal facility, complete with all the office equipment – tables, chairs, supplies, computers – required to effectively run a response and recovery operation. FEMA did extensive public assistance and hazard mitigation work in order to help the individual states and counties recover and to improve their capacity to respond to future storms.

Located on a 70-acre farm in rural New Hampshire, Live and Let Farm (L&LLF), the largest agricultural rehabilitation rescue and sanctuary in the region, provides animal protection, education, and rehabilitation services. An AmeriCorps NCCC team served with L&LLF, primarily working to develop the Quarantine Rehabilitation Facility. The team built interior walls, installed doors, sealed wood, and painted the facility. Additionally, they hung plywood and stained beams in the Brittany Searing Memorial Building, strung electric fences, helped mill the lumber for and assemble wooden fences, and cleaned and organized the recreation room. Team members repaired or installed 1,000 feet of electric and wood fencing, cleared and limed 13 paddocks, stained 40 beams, facilitated an adoption event, set up for a benefit ride, and cared for dozens of animals.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Friends Foster Grandparent Program of Concord has served the needs of at-risk youth in New Hampshire since 1984. In 2015, Foster Grandparents tutored 1,732 at-risk K-12 students at 60 schools, ninety percent of whom improved their academic performance. Foster Grandparents mentored 510 students, with 92 percent of them improving academically, and worked with 952 children at 39 early education programs across the state. Altogether Foster Grandparents served more than 123,238 hours helping at-risk youth throughout New Hampshire.

Senior Corps RSVP

Coos Country RSVP serves a rural, mountainous area of New Hampshire with a high percentage of low-income individuals and no public transportation. Volunteers are critical to ensuring that low-income, isolated seniors get meals, transportation to doctor appointments, and have companionship. In 2015, 95 volunteers provided meals to 682 low-income and disabled citizens, another 20 homebound seniors received regular transportation to vital appointments, and 35 volunteers visited low-income isolated seniors one to two times each week. RSVP volunteers are also continuing training with New Hampshire Emergency Services so that they are prepared to respond to the next natural or other disaster.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The New Hampshire Senior Companion Program, sponsored by Community Action Belknap-Merrimack Counties Inc., provides frequent and regular support to senior citizens to increase their stability, prevent physical and mental decline, and promote independence. In 2015, 92 Senior Companion Program volunteers provided critical functions to more than 447 seniors, including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, essential errands, light meal preparation, and information referral. More than 171 of the clients served are veterans. Additionally, 52 caregivers received much needed respite services from Senior Companion volunteers. In total, Senior Companions provided 79,399 hours of service to New Hampshire seniors and their caregivers.